

A STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF BENGAL.

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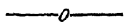
ONE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY; HONORARY OR FOREIGN MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL INSTITUTE OF NETHERLANDS INDIA AT THE HAGUE, OF THE INSTITUTO VASCO
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VOLUME XX.

GENERAL INDEX.

TRÜBNER & CO., LONDON, 1877.

PREFACE TO VOLUME XX.
OF THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF BENGAL.



THIS Volume concludes the Statistical Account of Bengal. In sending forth a work which has occupied the last seven years of my life, I have a painful consciousness of its shortcomings. The conditions under which it was executed render it silent on several points on which information might have fairly been expected, and leave much to be desired with regard to others. These conditions have been alluded to in the Preface to Volume I. The failures throughout a century of previous efforts, a single one of which cost the East India Company £30,000, and left not a page of printed matter behind, had been accepted by the Government as a warning against elaboration of any sort. The state of public feeling induced by the Income Tax of 1869-70, precluded all inquiries which might re-awaken the suspicions of the natives with reference to fresh imposts, or prolong the popular sensitiveness and unrest. Historical disquisitions, or opinions on the social and economic conditions of the people, were deemed unsuitable in a work which was to be revised by the Government, and to receive its official imprimatur. A general introductory

volume was, after being set up in type, withdrawn for this reason; and the unused materials extracted from the local records with a view to the District-history of Bengal, have been embodied in four printed volumes, which will appear hereafter as a separate work. The task assigned to me was to execute, under these conditions and in seven years, a Statistical Survey of Provinces containing a population more numerous than the inhabitants of England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Holland, Switzerland, and Italy put together. During the first three years, I collected, by means of letters and personal visits to the Districts, the local materials for my work. Except on special points, therefore, my statistics do not come further down than 1873: the year 1871 was the point of time at first prescribed. The fourth and fifth years were occupied in testing the information thus gathered, and in arranging it on a uniform system. The two remaining years have been devoted to reducing the materials to the shape in which they are now presented to the public. During fifteen months of this last period I have had the assistance of five junior members of the Civil Service in Bengal, and of two able coadjutors in England. To all these gentlemen, and to many others who have aided me as a labour of love during the long progress of the operations, I tender my sincere thanks. But for their kind help, the task could never have been completed within the period prescribed.

Again, therefore, as in the Preface to my first Volume, I beg that those who come after me will, in improving on my work, remember the conditions under which it has been done. It represents the first organised advance towards a better knowledge of the country. When I commenced the survey, no regular Census had been taken of India; and the enumeration of 1872 disclosed that the official estimates had been

wrong as regards Lower Bengal alone, by more than twenty-five millions of souls. No book existed to which either the public or the administrative body could refer for the most essential facts concerning the rural population. Districts lying within half-a-day's journey of the capital, and treated of at great amplitude in these Volumes, were spoken of in the *Calcutta Review*, with more truth than we can now believe possible, as "unexplored." Famines, agrarian agitations, tribal or sectarian movements, in short all the less common but inevitable incidents of Indian rule, were wont to take the Government by surprise. Even the past revenues of each District, and the gradual building up of its administrative jurisdiction, were secrets which required much labour and patience to penetrate. The foregoing Volumes endeavour to reduce this element of the unknown, and to render the slowly acquired knowledge of the experienced few, the common property of the administrative body and the public.

W. W. H.

1877.

FINAL ORDERS of the GOVERNMENT on the Statistical Account of Bengal, published by order of the Lieutenant-Governor ; *Calcutta Gazette*, Dec. 20, 1876.

EXTRACT.

Para. 3. "Sir Richard Temple cannot but regard these results with high satisfaction. Every volume of the statistical accounts has passed under his own personal supervision, and he is able therefore to testify to the quality of the work. The thanks of the Government of Bengal are emphatically due to you for the vigour and energy with which you have accom-

plished the collection of such diverse and varied information, and for the ability and literary skill which you have uniformly displayed in dealing with, sifting, analysing, and arranging materials supplied to you from so many quarters.

Para. 4. "The Lieutenant-Governor's thanks are also accorded to the assistants who have laboured under your directions in compiling several of the accounts. The names of Mr J. S. Cotton, late Fellow and Lecturer of Queen's College, Oxford, Mr H. H. Risley, of the Bengal Service, and Mr C. A. Dollman, are especially mentioned in your letter. I am to request that you will communicate to each of these gentlemen an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's thanks and approbation of their work.

Para. 5. "It only remains that the Lieutenant-Governor should record his further acknowledgments to the district and sub-divisional officers under the Government of Bengal, who, with great personal trouble, have supplied, from their local knowledge and resources, the detailed information on which the whole of the statistical account of Bengal is necessarily based. The active co-operation of all officers in Bengal has, as you fully acknowledge, at all times been cordially extended to you in your inquiries. The Lieutenant-Governor congratulates you and your assistants, and the district officers of Bengal generally, on the successful completion of the statistical account of the Bengal Provinces."

FOR the scientific identification of plants, drugs, and animals, I have been indebted to the various gentlemen mentioned. In each case, my responsibility has been confined to obtaining the aid of the best knowledge on the subject which the Government departments could offer. Throughout, I have had reason to be very grateful for the friendly spirit in which that aid has been given.

During the progress of the work several rectifications of District boundaries have been introduced. Care has been taken to incorporate such changes in passing the sheets through the press. But in all cases this has not been found possible. Thus, the arrangements mentioned as in progress, at p. 256 of Vol. V., for rectifying the Bákarganj jurisdiction, have since been carried out, and the Mádáripur Subdivision (with the exception of Gaurnadí *tháná*) has been transferred to Farídpur. I have exhibited this change in the map but not in the text. I observe also a printer's error on p. 169 of Vol. II., in which the area of Jessor District is stated at 3,913 instead of 3,713. The correct number is, however, repeatedly given throughout the volume.

W. W. H.



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 Kálá Páli, village union in Tirhut, xiii. 49.
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Kalintarákshí, "pigeons' eyes," a pattern of silk fabric made in Maldah, vii. 95.
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Kanáipur, manufacturing and trading village in Faridpur, v. 292.
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- Kantái, village in Tirhut, xiii. 53, 54.
- Kantáir, market village in Dinájpur, vii. 449.
- Kántánagar, market village in Dinájpur, vii. 365, 449.
- Kántátalá Katá, *khal* in the 24 Parganá, i. 31, 33.
- Kánthálpára village noted for Sanskrit learning, and fair in the 24 Parganá, i. 111, 233.
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- Kanthio, village in Dhenkánal State, Orissa, xix. 282.
- Kantilo, town in Khandpára State, Orissa, xix. 201, 262, 300.
- Kántlá, village in Dinájpur, vii. 365, 454.
- Kántnagar, *parganá* in Dinájpur, vii. 444.
- Kánúngos*, or village accountants. *See* Village Officials.
- Kanyákubyá, or Kanaujiyá Bráhmans in Bhágálpur, xiv. 54, 55.
- Káo river, xii. 165.
- Káorás*, caste of swine-herds in the Sundarbans, i. 317; in Nadiyá, ii. 49; in Jessor, ii. 207. *See also* Castes.
- Káorápukur, *khal* in the 24 Parganá, i. 31.
- Kapális*, a cultivating caste in the 24 Parganá, i. 69; in the Sundarbans, i. 317. *See also* Castes.
- Kapargádi, range of hills in Singbhúm, xvii. 19, 20.
- Kápillmuni, Hindu sage, connected with mythical origin of the Ganges, i. 28.
- Kápillmuni, site of ancient ruins in Jessor, ii. 223, 224, 337.
- Kapúrpur, village in Sarán, xi. 257.
- Káptái, river in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, vi. 25.
- Kar *pújá*, festival in Hill Tipperah, vi. 492.
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- Káranji, village in Dinájpur, vii. 436.
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- Karda, *parganá* in Maldah, vii. 136.
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- Kári Sáth, town in Sháhábád, xii. 202.
- Karimganj, *bázár* and jute mart in Maimansinh, v. 415, 441.
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- Karimpur, town in Nadiyá, with river traffic, ii. 33.
- Karimul, *parganá* in Cuttack, xviii. 227.
- Karindá, village in Hindol State, Orissa, xix. 288, 289.
- Kárjís*, village rent-collectors in Balasor, xviii. 287.
- Karkári, river in Lohárdagá, xvi. 235.
- Kárkhánds*, sugar refineries in Jessor, ii. 206.
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- Karnágarh, hill in Bhágálpur, xiv. 83, 84.
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- Karnáphulí river, vi. 22, 23, 25, 27, 125, 126, 129.
- Káro or Korá, hill in Bánkurá, iv. 207, 307.
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- Karsaut, village in Sarán, xi. 257.
- Karsíang, town in Dárijling, x. 87, 110.
- Kartábhajás, sect of Hindus, founded in Nadiyá by Rám Dulál, i. 73-75; ii. 53-56.
- Kartikpur Rájnagar Jalkar Mahál, *parganá* in Tipperah, vi. 444.
- Karto river, or Old Tístá, vii. 362.
- Káru, river in Lohárdagá, xvi. 235.
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- Kasái, river in Monghyr, xv. 22.
- Kasáipur, *parganá* in Mánbbhúm, xvii. 368.
- Kásálang, river in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, vi. 25.
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 Kásimnagar, *parganá* in Maldah, vii. 136.
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- Kenkti*, timber tree in the Sundarbans, i. 307.
- Keogram, village in Bardwán, with fair, iv. 67.
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- Keruyálkhand, *parganá* in Cuttack, xviii. 227, 228.
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- Kesat, town in Sháhábád, xii. 203.
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BY THE LATE J. W. S. WYLLIE, M.A., C.S.I.,

Of Her Majesty's India Civil Service, sometime Acting Foreign Secretary to the
Government of India.

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